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11-23-2005

# Spring 2006 Women's History Celebration

Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program

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# THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS/DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES COMMITTEE GRANT APPLICATION

PROVIDE 10 (TEN) COPIES, INCLUDING THE ORIGINAL.  
PLEASE PLACE A COPY OF THIS COVER SHEET ON TOP OF EACH COPY

I. Applicant/Organization:	Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program		
II. a. Responsible Organization Officer:	Mazie Hough		
b. Title:	Associate Director		
c. Campus Address (include EMail and Telephone):	101 Fernald Hall		
III. Summary of program requiring funding (title; featured artist(s); speaker(s); scheduled date (s):	<p>Spring 2006 Women's History Celebration</p> <p>This year's celebration, "Women's Work, Situated at the Boundaries" will provide an exploration of women's work, broadly defined, in music, art, photographs, and talks. We are particularly interested in exploring and raising questions about the connections between public and private, local and global, and myth and reality.</p> <p><b>Expand in fuller detail, a supporting statement with <u>detailed, itemized budget</u>. Funding for current application is contingent upon submission of detailed budget and attendance report for any previous years' grants.</b></p>		
IV. a. Total funding required for program:			\$ 8,964.00
b. Amount committed by applicant organization:			\$ 500.00
c. Amount committed by			\$
d. Amount requested from other funding sources			\$ what is necessary
e. Amount requested of Cultural Affairs/DLS Committee:			\$ 8,464.00
Signature of responsible organization officer/date: <u><i>Ann Schonberger</i></u> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <span>SIGNATURE</span> <span>DATE <u>11/23/05</u></span> </div>			

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
C/O PRESIDENT'S OFFICE  
200 ALUMNI HALL, CAMPUS

3,000

November 23, 2005

Kathleen March and Francois Amar  
Modern Languages and Classics  
218 Little Hall

Dear Kathleen and Francois:

Enclosed you will find our proposal for next spring's Women's History Celebration to be held from March 20 to April 7. Although not all of the pieces are in place, we are submitting this as a package to simplify the work of your committee and to enable us to know how much additional money we need to raise from other campus units. We have some of our own money to commit to the project, but the amount is small. In the past, nearly all of the money for Women's History Celebration has come from other sources. A list of those campus units that contributed last year is included in our 2004 Women's History Celebration flyer, which is enclosed.

The theme of this year's celebration is "Women's Work, Situated at the Boundaries." It has been estimated that women do 75% of the world's work; they earn 10% of the world's wages and own 1% of the world's property. (Pharr 1988, p.9) Maine was one of the top six states in the country with regard to having the smallest wage gap, and still in Maine women earn \$.84 to every dollar that men earn. The students respond to these facts with fervor, and it is our hope to encourage them to think about the implications for women locally and globally. In addition, we hope to expand the ideas of what constitutes women's work and to encourage dialogue about the place of motherhood in society—what the myths and realities are of women working in the home and how these myths and realities play into politics.

Our keynote speaker will be, we hope, Susan Douglas, Professor of Communication at the University of Michigan, who recently co-authored a book with Smith Professor Meredith Michaels on what they define as the cult of the new momism: a trend in American culture that is causing women to feel that only through the perfection of motherhood can they find true contentment.

They review the media images of the past thirty years and explore the ways in which the bar has been increasingly raised for the "standards of good motherhood while singling out and condemning...dreadful mothers" and they condemn not only Dr. Laura and the Republican administration but also Dr. Spock and the evening news.

PICA in Bangor has been in the forefront of exposing the ways in which global capitalism has trapped women in developing countries into slave labor conditions that parallel those that

American women faced at the turn of the last century. They will present a slideshow on Sweatshop Labor and the connections between our consumption and international women's lives.

We want also to expand our understanding of work and have therefore invited Elsa Barkley Brown, Professor of History and Women's Studies at the University of Maryland and award winning writer, to talk about her research on black activist, banker, and business woman Maggie Lena Walker who "influenced her community in profound ways." We also propose to show the film, *Shirin Ebadi-A Simple Lawyer*, who won the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize for her advocacy of human rights in Iran.

Cynthia Phinney, labor organizer for International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, has experienced the impact of the transnational corporations on her own life (see testimony attached) and can speak to the implications for local and global activism.

We are pleased this year to have several cultural programs in cooperation with other departments at the University and the community. The Hudson Museum will host the exhibit *Maine Women Living on the Land* and we plan to bring the photographer to speak about her work. In addition, Rhea Cote Robbins will exhibit her work dedicated to the memory of her mother, Rita L. St. Germain Cote (1919-1982) who grew up in Wallagrass, Maine, attended the Madawaska Training School in 1933 and worked at lumber camps in the Allagash before moving to Bangor and then Waterville. Cote Robbins explains that the exhibit, *Maman Disait*, "features a series of collages that are the story of my experience of the proverbs, sayings, maxims that 'maman disait' had access to, from where I do not know.

And finally, with the great enthusiasm of the students on our committee, we plan to bring the musical group Emma's Revolution as the culminating event in the program. Folk musicians Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow have sung at peace and justice gatherings around the world and opened the Fourth UN World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. Their songs have been featured on All Things Considered and Democracy Now and have been translated into seven languages. Their song, "If I Give Your Name" was the Grand Prize Winner in the Folk Category of the prestigious John Lennon Song Writing Contest.

The song, which exposes the suffering of the family members of undocumented workers lost in 9/11 in the World Trade Center, was one of 12 grand prize winners out of 24,000 entries.

This year we are requesting \$8,464 from the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Committee. This is the budget for events we are hosting, including the keynote presenter and visiting historian. We will be raising funds from other campus units, although our success in that arena decreases every year as budgets continue to be tight. In addition, our committee of faculty, staff, and students will be generating additional program ideas in the coming months.

We have only today, for example, heard from the Peace and Justice Center and the University of Maine at Farmington that we may all want to collaborate on bringing Barbara Ehrenreich to campus. Ehrenreich is an award-winning author whose book *Nickled and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* includes a chapter on Maine and which many students have read in a variety of classes.

Thank you for your consideration of our proposal. We are excited by the energy the planning has generated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mazie".

Mazie Hough, Associate Director  
Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program

Elsa Barkley Brown, Professor of History and Women's Studies, University of Maryland

Professor Barkley Brown joined the Department in 1997 from the University of Michigan. She holds a joint appointment with history and women's studies and is an affiliate faculty in Afro-American Studies and American Studies. Professor Barkley Brown is co-editor of the two-volume *Major Problems in African-American History* (2000) and the two-volume *Black Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia* (1993). Her articles have appeared in Signs, Feminist Studies, History Workshop, Sage, Public Culture, and The Journal of Urban History. She has twice been awarded the Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Publication Prize for best article in African-American Women's History. She has also won the A. Elizabeth Taylor Prize for best article in southern women's history, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Prize for best article in African-American History, and the Anna Julia Cooper Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Black Women's Studies. A past president of the Southern Association for Women Historians, Professor Barkley Brown currently serves on the Executive Council of the American Studies Association and on the editorial boards of *The Journal of Women's History* and the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*. Her current research interest is Maggie Lena Walker, how she publicly imagined herself as banker and businesswoman in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Barkley Brown also participates in the Ford Foundation funded multidisciplinary research seminar, "The Meanings and Representations of Work in the Lives of Women of Color." This project-- based in the Afro-American Studies Program at the University of Maryland-- will support research and publishing on work in the lives of groups of women such as beauticians, factory workers, scholars, and other blue/white/pink collar labors and documenting the historical and contemporary lives of frequently overlooked groups of working women.

Fee:	\$2,000
Transportation (round trip from Baltimore):	500
Lodging (two nights @ \$96):	<u>192</u>
	\$2,692

Susan J. Douglas, Catherine Neafie Kellogg Professor of Communication Studies, University of Michigan

Susan J. Douglas, recognized as one of America's foremost media critics, is the author of *Listening In: Radio and the American Imagination*, which won the Hacker Prize in 2000 for the best popular book about technology and culture; *Where the Girls Are: Growing Up Female with the Mass Media*; and *Inventing American Broadcasting, 1899-1922*. Her writing has appeared in The Nation, Ms., In These Times, TV Guide, and The Progressive. Her latest book, *The Mommy Myth*, co-authored with Meredith Michaels of Smith, is a history of motherhood in the media from 1970 to the present by two self-described "mothers with an attitude." As reviewer Mary Park noted:

Both scathing and self-deprecating, their pop-culture critique takes on "the new momism," the media's obsession with motherhood and the impossible standards which that obsession promotes. Today's ideal mom makes June Cleaver seems like a layabout...Meanwhile, politicians excoriate so-called "welfare queens," and parenting experts advocate wearing your child in a sling until he moves out on his own. Romanticized, commercialized, sensationalized, and demonized by turns,

today's mothers are damned if they work and damned if they don't; what's more, the idea that the government might do something to help their plight has come to seem almost quaint.

And Katha Pollitt, contributor to The Nation, concurs. "I have one word for *The Mommy Myth*: FINALLY! With humor, wit, and solid information, Douglas and Michaels take on the sentimentalized, privatized moralism of contemporary motherhood and show how it harms both women and children."

Fee:	\$2,000
Transportation (round trip from Detroit or Ann Arbor)	350
Lodging (two nights@\$96)	<u>192</u>
	\$2,542

PICA, "Sweatshop Labor Slideshow"  
In kind donation

Cynthia Phinney, Staff, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Ms. Phinney, formerly employed as a shoe worker, is a union organizer with Local 1837 and a member of the Maine Citizens Trade Policy. She has traveled to Nicaragua to explore working conditions there and has reflected on women's labor from a local and international perspective. She will speak about the connection between the loss of jobs in Maine and the global economy.

Fee:	\$100
Travel: round trip from Augusta: (120miles)	<u>60</u>
	\$160

Shirin Ebadi – A Simple Lawyer (film)

This documentary profiles Iranian attorney Shirin Ebadi, the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, who fights for democracy and human rights, in particular for the rights of women and children and against the misuse of religion in government. Ebadi was the cofounder of the Association for the Support of Children's Rights in 1995 and is currently the president of the Human Rights Defense Center. She has represented journalists accused in relation to freedom of expression and a child separated from her mother as a consequence of the child custody law; she has also successfully proposed to the Islamic Consultative Assembly a law, which would prohibit all forms of violence against children. We plan to buy the video rather than rent it, as it will then be available to use in classes.

Film:	\$375
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### Emma's Revolution

Prize winning folk musicians Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow have sung at peace and justice gatherings around the world including at the United Nations Memorial honoring former U.S. Congress member Bella Abzug and at the opening of the Fourth UN World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. Their songs have been translated into seven languages. In May 2002, Pat was featured on NPR's All Things Considered featured Pat and for the three days following her CD, "Hands," was the #1 seller on Amazon.com--out-selling Eminem.

Their song, "If I Give Your Name," is the Grand Prize Winner in the Folk Category of the prestigious John Lennon Song writing Contest. The song--which sheds light on the silent suffering of family members of undocumented workers lost on 9/11 in the World Trade Center--was one of 12 grand prize winners out of 24,000 entries. Rhythms Magazine called Pat's CD "Hands" a "powerful and energetic album....one of the best of 2001."

The duo performs in order to raise consciousness about world injustice and to raise money for various causes including the Israel Council Against House Demolition and the Sudanese Refugees.

Fee (including transportation):	\$1,000
Lodging (two nights@\$96):	<u>192</u>
	\$1,192

### Maman Disait, an exhibit by Rhea Cote Robbins

Dedicated to the memory of her mother, Rita L. St. Germain Cote, who was born and grew up in Wallagrass, Maine, this exhibit features a "series of collages that are the story of my experience of the proverbs, sayings, maxims that 'maman disait', had access to, from where I do not know, but without meaning to, passed on to me."

The impetus behind creating the exhibit was Cote Robbins desire to see these proverbs of her mother, in print, in a frame, as home graffiti kitchen art or as she puts it, 'to experience the French in places one has seen in English. To render the French on the wall as a way of marking the spaces as chez-nous pour nous--to simply have French on the wall."

"This show is not simply an exercise in nostalgia, but how I choose to reclaim for myself the proverbs, and to give meaning to them as I see them, part of the everyday magic of life."

The exhibit will be on exhibit in the Acadian Archives/Archives Acadiennes at the University of Maine at Fort Kent from December 2 to the end of February.

Exhibit Installation:	\$500
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### Lauren Shaw, Photographer, Associate Professor, Emerson College

Lauren Shaw received her MFA in Photography from the Rhode Island School of Design where she studied with Harry Callahan and Aaron Siskind. She is co-founder of New England Women in Photography and co-chaired the national Conference in 1997. She is the recipient of two National Endowment Regional Grants Her work has been exhibited widely throughout the United States and is in collections at the Getty Museum,



Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Art Institute of Chicago, High Museum, and Library of Congress. Her exhibition, *Maine Women: Living on the Land* that premiered this year at the Farnsworth Museum, Rockland, Maine, will open in the Hudson Museum on April 6. Shaw will speak at the opening of her exhibit.

Fee:	\$500
Transportation (round trip from Boston):	61
Lodging (two nights@\$96)	<u>192</u>
	\$753

#### Publicity

Each year we put out a women's history celebration brochure and additional posters for the highlights of the celebration.

Printing:	\$750
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